



Updating Financial Need Requirements for DVR Services

Legislative Fact Sheet
April 25, 2022

Background:

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) within the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) serves individuals with disabilities seeking employment. Under federal regulations, there is no requirement for individuals served by DVR to participate in the cost of their services (34 CFR 361.54).

However, under current state law, depending on a person's disability and location in the State, an individual with disabilities seeking DVR services may be required to pay for their services. As a result of this, DVR has observed an inequity in how financial need testing impacts individuals with certain disabilities or those in certain areas of the state.

Summary of Proposal:

In order to create additional flexibility related to financial needs testing prior to providing certain services, CDLE is proposing revising CRS 8-84-106(3). CDLE requests to clarify and correct when it is necessary to determine need for financial assistance, while ensuring that the requirements support equity across those served by DVR, regardless of disability, geographic location, rehabilitation needs, or chosen provider. Amending CRS 8-84-106(3)(c)(I) will ensure compliance with federal regulations and provide increased clarity and equitable access to services for all eligible individuals in Colorado.

Senate Bill 22-217 currently includes two programs that support quality of life and independence of people with disabilities. This amendment to align state statute with federal regulation of Vocational Rehabilitation by allowing more services to be provided without requiring financial means testing will help DVR increase quality of life and independence for more people with disabilities by providing employment supports.

Advancing this proposal through SB22-217 will ensure equitable access to services for all Coloradans, regardless of where the individual resides in Colorado or the nature of their disability.

Anticipated Fiscal Impact:

These revisions are expected to have an insignificant impact on case service expenditures and no appropriation is requested.

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